

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /089 W
-----091050Z 092807 /15

R 090817Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6702
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3204

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PBOR XF TS
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY VISITS JORDAN, SYRIA
AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES IN SEARCH OF SUPPORT
IN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE.

REF: TUNIS 2498 (NOTAL), TUNIS 2293 (NOTAL)

1. TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB CHATTY RETURNED MAY 5
FROM A SIX-DAY VISIT TO CAPITALS OF JORDAN, SYRIA AND
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS TO
EXPLAIN TUNISIAN POSITION IN DISPUTE WITH LIBYA OVER
CONTINENTAL SHELF AND TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR TUNISIA FROM
GOVERNMENTS CONSULTED. ACCORDING TO CHATTY'S ARRIVAL
STATEMENT, HE ALSO DISCUSSED BILATERAL RELATIONS AS WELL
AS MIDDLE EAST. IN HIS AIRPORT STATEMENT TO PRESS
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FONMIN REITERATED TUNISIAN VIEW THAT PRESENT SITUATION
IN MIDDLE EAST OF "NEITHER WAR NOR PEACE" MUST NOT BE
ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. HE SAID THAT ADVANTAGE SHOULD BE
TAKEN FROM EXISTENCE OF NEW ADMINISTRATION IN U.S. AND
OF FAVORABLE OPINION IN EUROPE TO HASTEN THE
SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, WHICH
WILL ITSELF LEAD TO SOLUTION OF MID-EAST PROBLEM.

2. SPEAKING IN PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S NAME, CHATTY CONTINUED THAT IF PRESENT EFFORTS DO NOT LEAD TO RESOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, TIME WILL WORK IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO PERPETUATE ITS PRESENCE IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.

3. CHATTY MADE SIMILAR TRIP TO ALGIERS AND MOROCCO IN EARLY APRIL AND TO EGYPT, LIBYA, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ IN LATE MARCH (TUNIS 2498). THIS SWING THROUGH JORDAN, SYRIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WAS PART OF SAME ONGOING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO LINE UP ARAB SUPPORT IN DISPUTE WITH LIBYA. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GOT BELIEVS TIME IS RIGHT FOR SUCH AN INITIATIVE IN VIEW OF LIBYA'S DETERIORATED RELATIONS WITH MOST OF ARAB WORLD. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN HINTS THAT TUNISIA IS LOOKING FOR GOOD OFFICES OF FRIENDLY THIRD PARTY IN POSITION TO EXERT SOME INFLUENCE ON QADHAFI. IN NEITHER CASE HAS CHATTY MADE IN PUBLIC STATEMENT AS TO MEASURE OF SUCCESS ACHIEVED IN THESE CONSULTATIONS. KING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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